

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 037209

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ORIGIN EA-09

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L/HRRUNYON (INFO)

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R 140717Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 037209

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, PINS, RP

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: DE LA TORRE CASE

REF: MANILA 2115

1. DEPT APPRECIATES EXCELLENT EMBASSY REPORTING ON DE LA TORRE ET AL.
2. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED INQUIRIES ON DE LA TORRE AND ASSO-
CIATES FROM SENATORS BAYH, CRANSTON, FRASER AND WILLIAMS,
AND REPRESENTATIVES BURTON AND MINK.
3. INQUIRIES STEM FROM LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN BY STEVE
PSINAKIS AND ARTICLE IN PHILIPPINE NEWS REGARDING HUNGER
STRIKE BY QUOTE FOURTEEN POLITICAL PRISONERS HEADED BY
CATHOLIC PRIEST DE LA TORRE AND TWO NURSING MOTHERS WITH
THEIR SIX-MONTH OLD BABIES. END QUOTE.
4. FOR PURPOSES OF REPLYING THESE INQUIRIES WOULD APPRE-
CIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN SUPPLY ON FOLLOWING:
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PAGE 02 STATE 037209

A. ARE ALL 14 PRISONERS MENTIONED BEING CHARGED IN SAME CASE WITH DE LA TORRE E.G. FOR PARTICIPATION IN COMMUNIST CONSPIRACY TO TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST GOVERNMENT?

B. WILL ALL PRISONERS BE TRIED AT SAME TIME WITH DE LA TORRE AND DO WE HAVE ANY MORE WORD ON WHEN THAT MAY BE?

C. DO CHARGES OF TORTURE OF THESE PRISONERS STEM SOLELY FROM EARLY PERIOD OF DETENTION OR HAVE PRISONERS BEEN MALTREATED AGAIN SINCE INVESTIGATION BY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE IN JANUARY 1975?
KISSINGER

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To: MANILA
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